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ELSEWHEN
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FROM THE
EDITOR'S DESK
Greetings,
Elsewhen
Britain's Haunted
Air fields:
The Ghosts of
I
I
friends! Welcome to
the sixteenth issue of Elsewhen.
want to thank you for being so patient
with the longer-than-usual gap between
A lot of things have
issues this year.
happened that made this necessary.
hope you will not be disappointed with
the material we have gathered for this
It is a great variety that
issue.
spans many areas of interest.
is the last issue Ashley
This
She left in
had a role in putting out.
May and went back to publishing her own
I had hoped she would stay
fanzine.
I
on, but she wanted new challenges.
wish her the best of luck. I want to
thank her for jumping in so willingly
after Sandy left unexpectedly. I could
not have done it without her.
I have found a new assistant for
pal!
I am
a teenager!

the next issue
assistant
different
considering a
editor each issue; perhaps I will give
opportunity
local students an
beyond their school papers.
some
will
Thanks,
The next issue, due in December,
final issue.
be the
possibly
of the continual decline of
Because
for organizations
financial support
IN THIS ISSUE:
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UFOs: Extraterrestrial or Terrestrial? (Part III)
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such as ours, it has become impossible
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access
regularly. Our

printer for quality originals is gone,
so you will notice a mix of print here
some pages laser printed, some on a
If the situation changes,
dot matrix.
I'll certainly reconsider my decision.
now planning to go to a small
I am
sort of
as
newsletter
occasional
SUPRA News.
replacement
This issue was almost three weeks
late because of a personal tragedy
Kellie and I lost our baby which was
I want to dedicate
due in November.
to the loving memory of
this issue
our precious Angela Ann...
a
Mark

RAF Scampton

by Mark Gardner

RAF Scampton in England has had a long and quite distinguished history of service to Its country and monarch. It was from here that Guy Gibson and his brave No. 617 Squadron took off on their famous Dambuster Raid on May 16, 1943. The raid was a success and Guy Gibson was awarded the Victoria Cross for his efforts. Today the base is the home of the Red
Arrows, Britain's
wonderful
team, the
past
Royal Air Force aerobatic
counterparts of America's Thunderbirds.
The pride of those stationed there is
evident. It is a choice assignment.
Despite all the glory and honor
and
belonging to
base
this
- it also has another honor,
present
nature.

though of less desirable
Unlike most active duty RAF posts, this
base has resident ghosts. There is no
abandoned control tower, rusting hangar
It is very
or crumbling runway here.
much an active part of Great Britain's
national defense.
a
stories
The
associated with the
hauntings at Scampton are varied. There
are several types of haunts going on at
the same place, although not at the same
unexplained
time.
There have been
happenings, sightings of phantom flyers,
but the most common occurrence seems
of a
to be the regular appearance
silent, spectral black labrador dog.
The ghost dog has been seen around
the base off and on since the Second
Its normal hangout is the
World War.
area in and around the Officer's Mess.
It has long been accepted that the
phantom dog can only be Nigger, the black
labrador mascot owned by Guy Gibson,
that was sadly struck and killed by an
automobile just hours before the
Dambuster Raid. The dog was buried on
the base and a plaque still marks his
resting spot to this
It
very day.

appears that the dog is still watching
over the base or, perhaps, looking for
his long-dead master, who died later in
the war in a somewhat mysterious, fiery
crash in Holland on September 20, 1944.
But that's another story...
have
few
In addition to the better-known
there
ghost dog,
been a

sightings of a phantom pilot in full
These started sometime in
flying gear.
the 1950's; I have found no references to
wartime sightings of him. He is thought
to be a lost crewman from one of the
Lancaster bombers lost in the latter
part of the war.
ARROUIS
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Elsewhen
UFOs: Extraterrestrial
or Terrestrial?
(Part III)
by Mark Gardner
In two other issues of Elsewhen I discussed this subject and put forward the idea that those extremely few genuine UFO sightings-after all the misidentifications, hoaxes, and hallucinations are thrown out-are military (and maybe civilian) test aircraft of very earthly origin. I showed, for example, that if the Nazis could come up with some of the things they did fifty years ago, it is not difficult to imagine some of what could have been achieved since then.
If we explore this further, we can see a connection between a number of items. Is it really any coincidence that the "Modern UFO Era" began in 1947, the same year the U.S. Air Force was established and that Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier in the X-1? Indeed, this was the very same period when the huge boom in military and civilian test projects began. Research into rockets and jets looked as if it would lead to the demise of propeller-driven aircraft. Dreams of flying wings and wingless aircraft were also being pursued vigorously.
I have come to the conclusion that the 1947 Kenneth Arnold flying saucer sighting near Mt. Rainier, Washington, was an atmospheric optical illusion. Other pilots in later years have seen a similar type of phenomenon in this area of the Cascades and other mountainous areas around the world. This atmospheric phenomenon can produce solid-

looking shimmering discs' (as seen from a distance). A pilot acquaintance experienced this phenomenon. He sighted a silvery disk-your typical flying saucer-one day while flying his Cessna 152 in the Mount St. Helens area. He called to another aircraft in the distance. From their angle, they could not see a 'disc'. Some people think Mr. Arnold made the whole thing up back in 1947, but I do not agree with them. I think he was simply mistaken in his identification of 'silvery saucers' as physical things.

I believe most, if not all, of those 'silvery saucer' sightings where witnesses see something, yet nothing appears on local radar screens, are of this atmospheric optical illusion. Since it is a very transitory phenomenon, any change in atmospheric conditions, sunlight, or witness angle can cause the 'saucer' to suddenly vanish. In late August 1992 I talked with a man from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) who had a display about the National Weather Service. I asked about unusual atmospheric phenomena and he briefly listed things such as "angels" (not the spirits) that are rare and still the subjects of much debate. He said a colleague at NOAA is writing a

book about rarely seen atmospheric phenomena, tentatively to be called Out of the Clear Blue. I look forward to it and think it will be very interesting, along the lines of the Sourcebook Project's useful publications.

As for those very rare objects which have a genuine physical presence, I believe I have already established that there is enough evidence to show an earthly origin, although they are not necessarily from our time (ie, the future). So we are much more likely to experience visits from extratemporals than extraterrestrials.

Many of the ET proponents advanced their flawed case for the extraterrestrial origin because of the high weirdness associated with many alleged sightings. They claim that since the factors involved seem to be too strange to have a terrestrial origin, they have to be from a different planet. This is a naïve assumption we cannot seem to shake after many decades. Once the ET thesis took hold, it passed on into popular culture. People are always more likely to believe in the sensational rather than the rational (and perhaps boring) explanation; bug-eyed space monsters are more appealing than secret test aircraft. As a child I believed UFOs were from outer space, but I grew up and learned to examine the evidence as a whole and put together a theory that fit the bulk of the legitimate evidence much better. One of my favorite quotes is:

"It is a capital mistake to theorize before you have all the evidence. It biases the judgement."

Sherlock Holmes, A Study in Scarlet

This is very true. Too many people settle on an opinion or

theory as soon as they see a pattern or trend in data or evidence, ignoring everything from then on. Boy, is that a major blunder! I am saddened at all of the people living in ignorance caused by their own failure to see the whole body of evidence. The Jumping-to-the-Wrong-Conclusion Syndrome is a common thread through human history and has lead to persecution, inquisitions, suppression of knowledge, witch hunts, and more than a few wars.

I think that much of the evidence that seems to support an ET origin actually disproves it and quite soundly. The distances between the stars make contact between two species of sentient life extremely unlikely. Most people have no concept of the incredible vastness of space. Then, what is the chance that beings from another planet would be anything at all like a human, much less have two arms, two legs, two eyes, etc., like us. Here the possibility drops so close to zero that one is tempted to use that dreaded word 'impossible'. So I believe no genuine humanoid UFOnauts (if there are any) can be of an ET origin. Much of the technology of these so-called aliens seems to be simply 'futurized' earthly technology. Although the laws of physics are the same universe-wide, engineering and technology need not be so. As a matter of fact, I would

suggest that real ET technology would be nothing recognizable and could not be described by humans. Again, any beings advanced enough to be able to travel safely between the stars would definitely not crash and die here in some desert; 'crashed saucers' disprove that notion. Flying vehicles of such superiority should be fault-free or indestructible. I cannot imagine how a lightning strike could destroy a flying saucer or how two of these vehicles could accidently collide, given a much more advanced technology. But man-made aircraft do crash, because our technology is nowhere near an interstellar flight level.

Also, this growing abduction by ETs phenomenon has some big holes in. it, especially the fact that they are reported at all. I am sure any beings able to master space travel certainly would have mastered the simpler art of erasing memories from their victims. If I was one of the grey-skinned space-perverts, molesting helpless humans, I would definitely not want my victims to go away remembering anything. Leaving witnesses could eventually lead to us humans gaining enough knowledge to be a threat to the safety and survival of these aliens.

I would be more willing to believe in the reality of abductions if people found unexplainable marks on their bodies and subsequent hypnosis revealed a total blank-no fantastic story about grey, slant-eyed aliens and medical experiments. Even the value of hypnosis is still being debated. The human brain is more complicated than we'll ever be able to completely comprehend. (I am one of those

rare individuals who cannot be hypnotized, despite the herculean attempts of several 'professionals' over the years.)
Any delving into the brain, be it the conscious, subconscious, or unconscious mind, should always be taken very cautiously. I feel a bit uneasy about these continuing attempts to drag out 'submerged memories' from alleged abductees. I wonder if this doesn't cause more trauma and damage to the mental health of these people than help them.
In a classic case of twisted logic, some abduction proponents claim that because skeptics have not been able to disprove the reality of abductions, that proves them to be legitimate. Whoa! Then they add that the similarities of the abduction accounts from many different people who've never met proves that it is real. Wrong again. You see, I am willing to bet that not one single alleged abductee didn't previously have some basic knowledge of what a UFO is and had not seen at least one science fiction movie. This is part of contemporary culture and has 'contaminated' everyone's memories. Just about anyone in the late 20th Century from anywhere who has been 'Westernized' has the elements in their heads from which an abduction scenario can be drawn out under the right conditions. The brain stores every experience we've ever had, although we consciously remember only a small fraction of this vast repository. Cryptomnesia is where forgotten memories and knowledge are used by the mind. A perfect example of this

is someone who only speaks English being regressed to a 'past life' and suddenly speaking another. language. Through careful research into the person's childhood, it is revealed that when just a toddler, their family had lived next door to a woman who spoke that language. The child heard and memorized it, yet did not remember it consciously.
I suggest that someone who was raised isolated from much of 20th Century culture will never be 'abducted' because they do not have the unconscious material to draw an abduction experience from. This is borne out by the example of me finding absolutely no evidence of there having been a UFO abduction within any of the Amish communities. Without cars, TVs, radios, VCRs, or even electricity, these people deliberately choose to live a simpler life more like 19th Century. I did deep research into the
Since I speak
Amish for a research paper in college.
German and respect these gentle folk immensely, I was trusted enough to be welcomed into several Amish homes, which is rare honor.
The abduction enthusiasts claim that this is a truly world-wide phenomenon with nearly identical elements appearing in virtually every culture and socio-economic group. This is an absolutely false and misleading statement. Yes, abductions have been reported in different places, but

there have often been quite divergent details. One should take with a grain of salt anything said by someone making a living out from the abduction phenomenon, since they have a vested interest. Although people like Budd Hopkins and Dr. Leo Sprinkle appear to have a genuine interest in the abductees they deal with, there are quite a few who are obviously preying on these people to earn a living. This is really abhorrent to me. I wish we could pass a law to protect people from these opportunists with dreams of best-selling books and lucrative lecture tours in their heads. But I guess this is to be expected, since it is human nature to take advantage of others.

If these abductions are creations of the mind, why and for what reason? There have been any number of excellent theories to explain them. One of the most interesting I heard was equating the abduction process with prenatal and childbirth trauma-somewhat possible. Another more likely explanation has to do with variations on theme of the mind creating a fantasy abduction to shield itself from the trauma of some other actual experience that was too painful to accept. Some researchers have supposedly found an extremely high rate of past sexual or child abuse amongst abductees, as one would expect. It's less painful for the mind to dehumanize the experience by having an alien do something to them than for them to remember "uncle" molesting them as a child or "a strange man" assaulting them as an adult. It makes sense, since many abductees claim continuing experiences since childhood, while others only started being 'abducted' as an adult.

(Continued on Page 16)

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Elsewhen
Was Atlantis
Real?

by Hugh H. Trotti

Can the quarrel about the subject of Atlantis between non-believers and believers be based at least in part upon a misunderstanding? We shall see if it is possible to rehabilitate the concept of Atlantis is such a way as to reflect real, historical events.

Early in the 6th Century B.C., a traveler from Athens arrived in Egypt. Solon, the famous Athenian lawgiver, had left town so as to not be pressured or forced to alter any of the legal changes he had made for Athens. He was told an interesting story by the priests of the land.

In short, that tale was this: Nine thousand years previously, attacking invaders from somewhere outside the Straits of Gibraltar ("The Pillars of Herakles" to the

Greeks), appeared in the Mediterranean and attempted to conquer the coastal parts of that sea in order to found an empire. They were only stopped by the heroic efforts of early Athenians. But both the invaders and the Athenians suffered during that time, for in one awful night the home base of the strangers sank into the sea, and their Athenian opponents lost an army that was engulfed by the earth. The attacking forces were from the island of "Atlantis", which now was no more. Originally founded in an idyllic spot by a god, Atlantis was populated by a superior sort of people that had degenerated morally over the ages to the point where Zeus and the other gods visited a terrible punishment upon them.

Noteworthy in Plato's account of the island' is the description of bulls and their importance to the rulers of Atlantis, and the picture he (or the Egyptian priests) presents of a place surrounded and cut through by canals. Yet another element of interest is the statement that one could reach a continent past Atlantis by using some islands beyond that island as stopping-places. Finally, Atlantis itself is said to be larger than Asia plus Libya.

At least one thing in this account does seem to be a problem the date of 9,000 years before Solon's time. Solon was active about 100 years before the battle of Marathon. The Egyptian priests' date would amount to a time 11,590 or so years ago before Egypt was a nation, and even before the rise of the Sumerians in Mesopotamia around 6,000 or more years ago (the latter being the earliest civilization that we know of). Even the believers in the story of Atlantis are uncomfortable with such an ancient date. They often drop a zero, to produce "900" years, the idea being that ancient scribes often inflated numbers unduly by error or on purpose. Since ancient books were

individually copied by hand, such errors would not be surprising. The date produced by subtraction - about 1490 or 1500 B.C. - was close to the date that scholars had put for the volcanic eruption of the Greek island Thera (today's Santorini) north of Crete, and the purported overthrow of a native Cretan civilization called the Minoans (named after King Minos of legend). The doubts about inflated numbers is legitimate and not just an arbitrary change in the textual evidence. For instance, no scholar believes that Xerxes of Persia invaded Greece with an army of 1,700,000, as Herodotus wrote[2]. That figure is usually reduced considerably by those who study such matters.

But now new evidence seems to be emerging[3] that the volcanic events that created problems for the Minoans/Cretans may have taken place earlier. perhaps in 1628 B.C. or so. In any case, the date remains a problem. Apart from the date, an important barrier to belief in

Atlantis as having been based in reality would be the huge size of the island. That size is so large as to lead to the phrase "lost continent of Atlantis" in the writings of those concerned to write about the question. Why do they say "lost continent" when Plato wrote specifically about a "lost island"?"

The answer to this last question may revive the whole question of the reality or non-reality of Atlantis. That answer is this: Our "Asia" is not the same as the "Asia" of the ancient writers. When we say "Asia", we mean a massive continent that stretches from Europe eastward all the way to the shores of the Pacific Ocean. The ancient writers meant a part of what is modern Turkey when they used the word "Asia". The Greeks may have meant only the old kingdom of Lydia, and the Romans meant the kingdom of Pergamum they inherited in the last will and testament of that kingdom's ruler (again, a part of Turkey)."

So we must conceive of a part of Turkey added with Libya to reach the size of Atlantis. How big was "Libya"? We cannot answer this either from the account. However, it is entirely possible that "Libya" in this context means simply Cyrenaica a small kingdom west of Egypt on the Mediterranean coast. The meaning of "Libya" varies, sometimes meaning the whole northern coast of Africa, and sometimes just a part of that length. Let us assume that "Libya" indicates a smaller part of Africa, just west of Egypt. If we add a small part of Turkey to such an area, we do not arrive at an area great enough to be a "lost continent", but only an area which might fit a large island. Sicily might fit such a size, though it may not fit other elements in Plato's tale. But, while Crete is not very large north-to-south, its southern east-to-west coast facing Egypt is fairly long producing the impression of an island of considerable size. We recall that it was Egypt that produced our story. If Crete is a part of Atlantis or even the thing itself, what is the "mysterious continent"? Perhaps it is Eurasia - the combination of Europe and Asia which may be reached from Crete via intermediate islands north of that island.

Elsewhen

no

Scientists and scholars are unanimous that submerged lost continent can exist at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. Now, since we know that Atlantis is not supposed to be a continent, that objection that loomed so large before no longer has validity. But it is true that the placement of the island beyond the Straits of Gibraltar is still a problem. There is a slim chance that the references to the location of "Atlantis" indicate some early knowledge of the existence of the New World in ancient times (the "continent past Atlantis" and to be reached from it being the New World itself); but that interpretation, though it has led

many writers to examine the possibility, seems somewhat doubtful.
And, of course, the given dated of events in Plato's text remains open to question.
Most scholars hold that Atlantis never existed, and that the story was intended by Plato to teach some sort of lesson. He never finished the story, leaving posterity to guess at the incomplete record. But he did say that the story was true.'
Why do we believe "Atlantis" may have been an island or a collection of islands inside the Mediterranean, including Crete and Thera, and not in the Atlantic Ocean, as Plato said? When the Minoan palace at Knossos was found and excavated by Sir Arthur Evans, a very impressive bull-mural was found. And more than a few "horns of consecration" carved from stone and seeming to represent bulls' horns were discovered. Decades later, the excavations at Santorini (ex-Thera), located north of Crete, have revealed wall murals (works of art) in the "Minoan" style. The later Greeks wrote that earlier in their day, King Minos had colonized many islands (including the Cyclades) to further a lucrative sea trade. 10 It is possible that the Minoan "empire" may have been an economic empire, not a political one.
There is another reason for our belief. About the year 1200 B.C., large raiding fleets attacked Egypt and probably other places around the Mediterranean. Theses raiders, the so-called "Peoples of the Sea", may have overthrown many of the Mycenaean sites on the Greek mainland, including the southwest kingdom of Pylos, the home of the old leader Nestor from Homer's Iliad. Pylos was wiped out very suddenly, perhaps in an attack from the sea. We might remark here that so far as we know, Athens was the only Mycenaean city to escape being overthrown by whatever overtook the other Mycenaean sites.
When they attacked Egypt, the pharaoh of the time defeated the sea peoples, some of whom then settled (or were settled by the pharaoh) along the coast of Canaan to become the "Philistines" of biblical fame."
Though these raiders may have been composed of different peoples from many Greek islands and perhaps the Greek mainland, it seems likely that Cretans (called "Keftui" by the Egyptians) would have been among them. This attack took place over four hundred years after the violent eruption of a volcano on the island of Thera - but it is a real and historical event.

The scientist Pellegrino contends that the terrible eruption of the volcano on the island of Thera is the source for the Atlantis story insofar as its disaster is concerned, and he presents various horrifying examples of volcanic destruction. 12 But, like other analysts before him, he is not

aware of the "island" solution to the varying meanings of the word "Asia", and he and other writers have not been aware of the attack of the "Peoples of the Sea" in connection with the problem of Atlantis. These two historical factors we present now for the first time, in the belief that they shed light on the Atlantis question.

While Thera did not completely sink beneath the Mediterranean, its eruption did produce great tidal waves that washed up against Turkey and Cyprus, as well as a terrific explosion. Part of the island was blown away, but the people living there seem to have left before the final eruption - so that the ancient town being excavated seems thus far to have been empty. When the actual explosion happened it must have been a startling event, understandably imprinting itself on the legends and experiences of Mediterranean peoples. In his book contending that the fate of the island Thera is the source of the Atlantis story, Pellegrino stated that the explosion would have been the "...loudest sound ever heard by human ears" 13 and that a crater at least a mile deep would have been formed, with the sea rushing into it as a gigantic and awesome waterfall. He notes that the Greek word "Thera" means "fear".14

One interesting item in Plato's tale is the claim by the Egyptian priest that Athens was the only place to offer real resistance to the foreign raiders whose widespread devastation was known as far as Egypt. When we remember that Athens was the only Mycenaean center to escape the dark age ruin and overthrow, that fact might offer (if it's not a coincidence) some tenuous support to the historical "reality" of Atlantis another slim thread in a fabric which claims our interest. (Should we think here of Theseus' fight against the Minotaur?)

Stiebing's carefully reasoned discussion of the Atlantis question raised the possibility that various accounts and descriptions abroad in the Mediterranean world of Plato's day might have suggested certain descriptive passages about Atlantis, and so entered the surviving text.15 He also contends that the idea of linking Thera's disaster with Atlantis should be rejected" - a view which a majority of scholars hold.

If it is legitimate to gather divergent elements from Plato's world and then consider that they may have suggested his description of Atlantis, it ought to also be legitimate to gather divergent elements of real events from history to account for the story. Six such elements are provided in this article: (1) the volcanic explosion and resulting tidal waves; (2) the sea attack on Egypt (and probably other Mediterranean coasts); (3) the mention of the bull's importance in Atlantis; (4) the fact that Athens escaped the destruction that brought on the Greek "Dark Ages" after the collapse of the other known Mycenaean

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Elsewhen
sites. Of course, Athenians may have joined the fleets of the "Sea Peoples", as well as fought them, as in Plato's account of them repelling the Atlantic invaders. The point is that the "Sea Peoples" did actually existed"; and (5) Plato wrote that the Atlantis tale was true.

Finally, there is a sixth argument that was proposed by one of the Greek scholars interested in the subject perhaps Marinatos, the excavator of Thera. This was that in Plato's story the same disaster that sank Atlantis "in the Atlantic Ocean" had also swallowed up an Athenian army in an earthquake. This simultaneous action argues for Atlantis being near to Athens instead of far away in the Atlantic.

The pointers to Minoan Crete as Atlantis or a part of it have been known ever since the excavations of Sir Arthur Evans. But here we add two new strong factors not brought the knowledge that ancient "Asia" was
forward before:
only a western portion of modern Turkey and not our present large continent, so that it is not really difficult to find land that is "larger that Asia plus" part or even all of North Africa; and the more modern knowledge of the attack of the Peoples of the Sea, which was engraved in stone in Egypt, though it took place some 400+ years after the Thera explosion. There were widespread attacks by some "power" outside Egypt, even as Plato recounts in the priest's story, though they took place centuries after the great disaster. The point (made by Marinatos?) seems supportive and logical, since an island sinking in the Atlantic could have little to do with an army at or near Athens. These considerations strengthen the case for Atlantis being Crete + Thera + other islands of the Mediterranean Sea.

There may be more indications or clues to support a Minoan Crete/Thera/other-islands identification as the "legendary" place. We know that Crete contained many palaces which appear to be different ancient areas of authority in the island's past; Plato stated that there were periodic gatherings of the ruling classes of Atlantis from different areas for ritual purposes (bulls were involved there, too).

Looking north from Egypt (the apparent source of the "Atlantis" tale), we see that from Crete (or Thera) we may reach further islands and then a continent. The landmass called Eurasia (Europe + Asia) is easily larger than part of Turkey and all of North Africa, for that matter. Despite the evident dangers of using "selected evidence", description "larger than Asia plus Libya" looks like it fits a continent-Atlantis was an island. It is incorrect to talk, as we often do, of the "lost continent of Atlantis" instead of

the "lost island of Atlantis".
the
It is possible that we are untangling an historic mix-up here caused by the passage of a story down the centuries before the advent of Plato and classical Greece. It is conceivable that the size of Atlantis referred to the outer boundaries of a Minoan economic/trade empire such as that seems somewhat strained.
of the later Phoenicians, but that theory of the size problem
magnitude
though of differing times
Issue #16
We will persist in contending that those places made up the original "Atlantis" of Plato, and that events of great themselves upon the Egyptians and other peoples around the somewhat composite and idealized way, "Atlantis", in a real impressed
And that, though described in a
Mediterranean coasts.
historical sense, truly existed.
FURTHER READING
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Pellegrino, Charles, Unearthing Atlantis: An Archaeological Odyssey, New York: Random House, 1991.
for the "Atlantis" tale, the above two authors are serious
Though most scholars do not accept Thera as a source
scientists and writers who do accept that attribution (though neither is an anthropologist or archaeologist).
1.
2.
3.
5.
6.
NOTES
H.H.T.
Plato's two dialogues concerning the subject of Atlantis, his "Critias" and "Timaeus", may be found in convenient form in a Penguin paperback edition: Timaeus and Critias, New York: Penguin, 1983.
Herodotus, The Persian Wars, New York: Random House Modern Library, (no date), p. 522.
- since
For instance, Science News, August 22, 1987, p. 121, has a claim for around 1645 B.C. for the volcanic event that has been placed earlier in 1500 B.C. or 1450 B.C. Those of us who consider that the "Trojan War" may have been real will welcome some correction of early Greek dates
modern findings indicate that the Mycenaean

culture collapsed about 1200 B.C., it is odd to find Mycenaeans (Minoans) supposedly attacking Troy ten years later (1190 B.C. being a "traditional" date for that war).

Pellegrino,

Elsewhen

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12.

17

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13.

14.

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Charles, Unearthing Atlantis: A 16.

Random

Archaeological Odyssey, New York:

House, 1991, pp. 22, 82, 235, and mentioning 17. other sources in support. Various other dates from the middle of the late 17th Century B.C. have emerged recently, but Pellegrino contends that the volcanic convulsion is now confirmed at 1628 B.C.

Plato, "island",

, op. cit., p. 39.

Grant, Michael, The Ancient Mediterranean, New York: Meridian Books, 1988 paperback, p. 86.

Grant, Michael, Cleopatra, New York: Dorset Press, 1992, p. 10. See also his map on p. 50, which shows that area of what is now Turkey.

Stiebing, William H., Jr., Ancient Astronauts, Cosmic Collisions, and Other Popular Theories About Man's Past, Buffalo: Prometheus Books, 1984 paperback, pp. 29-56. A statement of the majority view that Thera was not Atlantis.

Plato, op. cit., p. 39.

Thucydides, The Complete Writings of Thucydides, New York: Random House Modern Library, 1951, pp. 5, 7.

Gitin, Seymour, "The Last Days of the Philistines", Archaeology, May/June 1992, pp. 26-31. The Philistines were major producers of olive oil under Assyrian lordship until the Babylonians completely defeated all their towns by about 600 B.C. and they disappeared from history as a separate people.

Pellegrino, op. cit. He gives credit to the scholar K.T. Frost, who published the link between the civilization of Crete and the tale of Atlantis in a scholarly journal in the first decade of the 20th

Century (pp. 39-40, 298). Of course, now we know that the since discovered island of Thera was a part of the Cretan/Minoan/Mycenaean civilization; the art works are quite distinctive.
Pellegrino, op. cit., p. 288.
Ibid., p. 282.
Stiebing, op. cit., pp. 54-56. We might add to his mention of Plato's trip to Sicily, the existence of the complex Mesopotamian canal systems, for possible imaginative accretions to the Atlantis description.
Ibid., p. 51.
Sandars, N.K., The Sea Peoples: Warriors of the Ancient Mediterranean, London: German Rev. Ed. paperback, printed in the GDR, 1987. Scholarly description of the mysterious "Sea Peoples", with mention of two attacks upon Egypt by this body of mixed peoples, occurring a few years before and a few years after 1200 B.C. (p. 111.)

CRETE
TALY
THERA
Issue #16
Locations of various areas involved in the "Atlantis" tale many small islands omitted.
MEDITERRANEAN
CYRENE
EGYPT:
BLACK SEA
SEA
Based roughly on map, p. 50, Michael Grant's Cleopatra, Dorset Press, 1992, and drawn by the author H.H.T.

Thoughts on Stonehenge

by Mark Gardner

One can never adequately put into words the feeling one experiences when arriving at the scene of a famous place they have wanted to visit their whole life. Just as I felt years ago when visiting Loch Ness, a similar feeling overwhelmed me when that tour bus cane around a bend in the road and there it stood -- Stonehenge! Anyone at all interested in history or mysterious places est count this site as one of the most important to visit. Indeed, it is to a fortean, archaeologist or historian a true pilgrimage.

The day was mostly cloudly as our bus palled up and we made our way through the admissions/gift shop area. I do not know if the other visitors that day were all that excited, but I know I was. A slight breeze caressed my face as I made my way up the walk to the almost circular path around the ancient structure.

It is a great pity that

visitors are no longer allowed to walk amongst the stones themselves, but that may add to their survival. My fears about a fence I was told about before my trip raining photographic opportunities were unfounded. I was able to get good pictares from different angles about 3/4 of the circumference of the structure -- the walk does not make a full 360° circle around the stones.
Close to our required departure time, the sun finally broke through the clouds and I was able to get about half a roll of film with the ancient stones brightly lit. I shall never forget that day for the rest of my life!

[PAGE BREAK]

Elsewhen
The Parallel Invention/Composition Controversy:
Coincidence, Cryptomnesia, Telepathy or Theft?
Issue #16
caused by an earlier scribe's error)? So
Atlanteans
couldn't
"true pyramids"
therefore, the
have
introduced
either direction and,
radically
different
styles of pyramids built many centuries
on
two
separate
continents
Elsewhen
My Lonely Broken Heart
Mark Gardner
by
(chorus)
Don't
you break my heart,
My lonely broken heart -
probably developed independently for It really can't take the strain.
apart
by Mark Gardner
Throughout history there have been occasions when two or more inventors or composers have come forth with the same or a similar creation at the same time often having lived substantial distances apart and apparently having never heard

In most cases, it is
of the other.
assumed that one stole the idea from
the other. These situations have led to
recriminations, lawsuits, character
assassination, and other unfortunate
incidents.
In some cases both parties
end up being losers, although is more
normal that one is left in ruins, while
the other prospers. Most of these
situations were due to coincidence.
Completely parallel inventions at
great distances appear to be an
extremely rare phenomenon but, by no
means, unheard of. A good example of
this are the pyramids of the Middle East
and the Americas. Believers in the
Atlantis myth try to use this as one of
their strongest pieces of evidence.
They claim survivors took their
architectural style both east and west
after the destruction of Atlantis. Well,
this does not wash at all with the
substantial archaeological evidence we
have. The evolution of the pyramid in
the Middle East, leading to the great
triumphs in Egypt, is well known. The
first pyramids here were basically huge
cairns (rock piles) or artificial hills.
Over untold centuries these led to the
mastaba or step pyramid to the flat-
sided pyramids we are most familiar with.
pyramids
Many experts feel that the first rough
were built as
substitute
mountains by people who had worshipped
mountain gods but had later migrated to
flatlands. Where does Atlantis fit into
this, when the history of the Middle East
pyramid goes back way beyond even the
proposed Atlantis (unless you accept
the erroneous, exaggerated figure of
9,000 years before Solon given by Plato,
different reasons.
'Cause if you break my heart,
A famous musical case of so-called My lonely broken heart
copyright infringement
involved
the
songs "He's So Fine" and "My Sweet Lord",

When George Harrison's "My Sweet Lord
I'll surely die from the pain.
came out, the copyright owners of "He's Achy Breaky Heart
So Fine" filed suit against him. The 1992 by Don Van Tress
judgement eventually came out against
the former Beatle.
opinion.
In my opinion, this
The
(chorus)
Even someone without any musical
was gross miscarriage of justice. The Don't tell my heart,
songs are only vaguely similar in my My achy breaky heart,
(Pick any two rap songs at I just don't think he'd understand.
random and they seem more alike than And if you tell my heart,
these two!) The former is a doo-wop love My achy breaky heart,
song from the 60's sung by a girl group, He might blow up and kill this man.
while the second was a "religious" song
from the 70's sung by a solo male with
mixed-gender background vocals.
lyrics are not especially alike. After
the judgement, experts claimed that
Harrison hadn't
actually consciously
"stolen" the earlier song, rather it was
unconsciously in his
memory
(cryptomnesia) and became part of the
song he eventually wrote. I think this
song writing
baloney! Harrison's own
ability is clearly obvious. I think this
a pure case
greed, clever
lawyers, twisting of evidence and more
than a little coincidence. If Myron L
Tudwiller from Spudville, Iowa, had
written "My Sweet Lord" instead of i
famous former Beatle with big bucks, the
suit never would have been filed or won.
One of my uncultivated hobbies has
I've only
been writing song lyrics.
was
of
written a couple dozen in my whole life
and many of these were written for 8
rather limited audience (usually for one
particular person). I can't compose the
music well enough to do anything with the
lyrics I come up with, although I usually
have a melody of some kind in the back of

In my personal
example of the coincidence or parallel
wrote in early 1988 with those of one of
my head while writing.
thought process, I

compare lyrics
1992's biggest hits, "Achy Breaky
by Don Van Tress,
a song I like:
Heart'
background should see the obvious
similarity between two songs written
miles apart by people unknown to each
other. There is absolutely no chance of
plagiarism or theft, because I wrote the
song in 1988 and nobody else ever saw it,
and I didn't hear Billy Ray Cyrus'
platinum-selling version of "Achy Breaky
Heart" until early in 1992. Other than
the choruses, the songs are really quite
dissimilar. Still, since I never set my
song to music or copyrighted it in 1988,
if I were to do something with it now I
would probably be treated to a lawsuit
for copyright infringement regardless of
whether mine was written before or not
(since I have no definite proof anyway).
never
On the other hand, many hundreds of
songs have been stolen from young or
naïve songwriters by unscrupulous
songwriters or performers. This is
usually because the victim
copyrighted his work before sending it
unsolicited to some publishing firm,
well-known
songwriter or performer.
This is why I warn people not to send
their music and/or lyrics to companies
that advertize they will "critique"
budding songwriters' work (often for a
price). The songwriter is likely to get
ripped off
this circumstance.
in
I

learned this the hard way, since I had a
somewhat similar experience.
Another uncultivated interest of
mine is inventions and improvements on

existing products. In 1985, right after I got out of the military, I came up with several ideas for products and contacted one of those "invention hotlines" that advertized for inventors to call in their ideas to be reviewed for
I
their potential and marketability. submitted my three best ideas at that time to them - a diet plan using color-coded meal cards (inspired by color-coded food group nutrition flashcards for grade school children I had seen about 15 years before), plastic collapsible and expandable storage containers (inspired by a combination of accordions and my mother having previously sold Tupperware), and an electric bottle opener (thought up on my own while still in the Navy). You can't copyright an idea and I wasn't quite up to the task of going through the time and expense of a patent search. The organization (apparently no longer in existence) responded that none of my ideas seemed to have any real potential at that time. In other words, "Thanks but no thanks!" Well, imagine my surprise a couple of years later when Richard Simmons introduced his Deal-A-Meal diet cards which have made him a millionaire. Very much like my earlier idea! Not long after that I started seeing commercials for the Popeet storage containers which collapse and expand. This was exactly what I had designed! I don't know when these other products were first thought of, but it is very curious to me. I was naïve to trust that "invention hotline". Of course, this could be yet another example of
parallel ideas
coincidences. I haven't seen electric bottle openers on the market yet. If you see them for sale in the near future, remember that you heard of them here first! Now I keep my inventions and improvements to myself for my own use. Of course, coincidence is very common occurrence in the world around And it is always possible that

us.
unconscious telepathy picks up the idea
from another's mind.
Page 11
multi-
own
a
or

[PAGE BREAK]

Elsewhen
Blood from the Sky:
Do Space-Time
Vampires Exist?
by Frederick Wisdom
Does the sky ever rain blood? That seems a strange thought, unexpected claim or "fact" one would be inclined to dismiss without much thought. But Charles Fort, the compiler of strange and unusual things, lists some circumstances of just this happening. Looking through serious periodicals, newspaper accounts, and other sources from previous centuries, he mentioned more than one case of "blood rain" in his controversial work The Book of the
By "damned" he meant damned by science;
Damned.
damned in the sense of being thought impossible and therefore to be disregarded.
We might file his report of this phenomenon away in our minds as a mysterious curiosity, along with other unlikely claims, but we sometimes come across claims of blood from the sky not having come from Fort's books. For instance, Richard the Lion-Hearted built his castle, "Chateau Gaillard", in a strategic position in France to protect some of his inherited lands there. The castle's construction was quite expensive, as one might imagine. When it "rained blood" upon the edifice being built, it was interpreted in a religious sense as some sort of punishment or divine displeasure. Never mind what it "meant" - did it really occur?
Also, the Roman historian Livy has an account of a rain of blood in 169 B.C.2 The Romans kept careful records of what they called "prodigies" sweating statues, strange births, lightning strikes, spontaneous altar fires, and other noteworthy oddities. They believed that such things "foretold" events to come or, at least, had some esoteric meaning. They had as many of these records as the later medieval clerics had notations of "miracles", if not more.
Our
ancestors were credulous, superstitious,
uneducated, and generally less sophisticated than we are (or so many people assume). We do possess the great

advantages of broad educational opportunities and general access to various sources of information not available in earlier ages. Given these things, how should we evaluate the written accounts which have come down to us from the past? Specifically, how about accounts of blood falling from the sky? We're tempted to say: "Superstitious hogwash!"

But wait... Though many people were uneducated and lived in rural areas in the agricultural past, and some of these may have produced such accounts, there is a point to remember: Such people lived "much closer to nature" than most of today's suburban or urban dwellers. If they said the "sky rained blood", can we be so sure they were wrong? They would have butchered the occasional chicken, pig, cow or deer. Because of that they might well have been more of an expert in the recognition of such substance than we are.

Such accounts that descend to us from the past would have been written down and preserved by educated, intelligent, and relatively sophisticated people. Only the educated could write at all; the medieval cleric who wrote down a peasant's description of a fall of blood would have belonged to this educated elite. This would also have been true of a Roman author. While the former might find some religious reason for blood falling and the latter would be generally prone to describe various "prodigies", both g would represent more learning than the general populace. The sources of information used by both could well have included first-hand descriptions by peasants people most likely to know exactly what blood looked and smelled like.

What could cause such a thing if it exists? There are reports among people called Ufologists that such blood falls have been analyzed and found to be ungulate (hoofed animal) blood.

We are also aware of claims of cow carcasses found mutilated and often strangely empty of blood, as well as reports of carcasses apparently dropped from above with no footprints or tracks of any kind around the location of the find. Albers has a figure of 50 tons or 108,000 pints of blood drained from cattle in 1975 alone.' UFOs are said to sometimes contain small gray entities with tiny slits for mouths such might make eating as we do difficult, but not drinking. Are we to believe that we are sometimes visited by space, dimensional, or time-travelling "vampires"? Or are we to be comforted by reports that a

government-captured entity enjoys strawberry ice cream? And what are we to make of reports that autopsies of bodies of crashed UFO occupants show no digestive structures? More comfort for us?

If UFOs collect blood from cattle, why would they spill a substance which they have taken great efforts to collect? Did their analysis show it to be too diseased for their ability to purify?

(It would be interesting to know if any
"abductees"
have low blood pressure
"experience"
after their
- has anyone checked this? Remember, cows are not the only source of blood.)

Why should creatures time-travel to the past to procure food? Perhaps the old Scottish philosopher Malthus has the answer: People breed geometrically while food production only increased arithmetically
has the Earth's future run
out of food? Blood is said to be a nourishing food. The African Masai tribe uses it regularly for food, but they only tap a vein without harm to the cow. Their cows represent wealth and are carefully guarded against harm.

Elsewhen

Though time's arrow may be only in one direction, let's suppose that direction is spiral and that "arms" or sections of such spirals can sometimes come close or even producing temporary "doors" between the past
overlap
and the future. The ancient Greeks and Romans (amongst others) sacrificed animals quite a lot, and much blood was spilled throughout the centuries in that way. (Whitley Streiber of Communion fame saw or thought he saw - an ancient Roman running up a hill in the course of an abduction experience he described.) Still, even if time is "spiral" in structure, there might remain a problem of a "past Earth" meeting "present Earth", since our planet changes its physical location in space through the passage of time. Thus, even if time "overlapped", as it were, our present Earth might well meet "empty space" instead of a "past" or "future" Earth! In any case, how could an exact alignment of past and future be done at all? (I have in mind here the story of the two English school-teachers who seemed to visit the Versailles of the past by actually stepping into it, as they believed. That "past" was in the exact area of their "present".)

If we suppose that a UFO is from our future and is able somehow to visit us in its past, can that be the answer to the exact matching of past and future locations? When our hypothetical UFO leaves our future (its present) and visits us in our present (its past), does that "trip" create

some sort of connecting path or link between locations it visits? Does the crossing of time itself bind together the point of arrival and the point of departure?

But it may be that "falls of blood" have more in common with falls of fish and other things than with UFO phenomena. One such fall, that of ice, is explained simply by our knowledge that there is considerable ice in space - what we previously thought of as "empty space". Chunks of ice that fall in the same way as meteorites do not surprise us unduly. And, of course, many ice falls have been traced back to leaking tanks on airliners. Can it be that there is a prosaic explanation for some other falls?

Nevertheless, blood fell before the advent of airplanes, and various things fell out of the sky in ancient times. In an article some time ago in Elsewhen, by Hugh Trotti, it was mentioned that shields fell out of the sky during the early history of Rome and various manufactured objects (a cup, a yoke, a plough, etc.) fell on the Scythian steppes of Russia. Are all of these things to be considered as "tall tales" or Those who study the non-historical legend by us? poltergeist are used to hearing of falls of stones. We may be left with the same mysteries we started with. Perhaps there is no really easy answer to our obvious questions about this most peculiar matter.

1.

ENDNOTES

Gillingham, John, Richard the Lionheart (New York: Times Books, 1978), p. 263.

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2.

Livy (Titus Livius), Rome and the Mediterranean (London: Penguin Books, 1987), p. 546.

Albers, Michael D., The Terror (New York: Manor Books, 1979), esp. p. 84.

3.

A Visit to
Haunted York
by Mark Gardner

Years ago I was on an airplane - I've flown so many times I can't remember which trip it was and during the course of the flight, I struck up a conversation with the gentleman sitting next to me. We both found that we had been to Great Britain several times and discussed our various visits and experiences. He casually asked me if I had ever visited the historic city of York. He was surprised that I had not and followed this by giving me a description of some of the must-see spots. Although I quickly forgot the specifics, over the years it had always stuck in the back of my head that I had to visit York, thanks to that anonymous gentleman's impressive recommendation. When I started making plans for my vacation/research

trip to Great Britain in September 1991, I decided that it was time to see if York lived up to all of the expectations I'd had over the years. On my way up to Scotland, I planned to stop over for a day and see what all the hoopla was about. On a sunny early afternoon, I stepped off the British Rail train into one of the most fascinating places I've ever been in my life! After dropping off my bags and extra things at a nice bed & breakfast away from the center of town, I set out to explore this amazing, historic city. At every turn you are greeted by centuries of history. In many ways, the center of town is still a lot like a medieval city with streets running off in every which way.
the
York is an ancient city, having been ruled over by Celts, Romans, Anglo-Saxons, and Vikings over centuries. The Romans called it Eboracum, it was the Anglo-Saxon Eoforwic, but it is from the Viking name, Jórvík (pronounced YOUR-veek), later Jórk, that the modern name arose. I was pleasantly surprised, as one interested in the ancient Norsemen, to find excavated Viking structures and an excellent museum, the Jorvik Viking Centre. I spent a long time touring the reconstructed village and looking at all the bits and pieces that have been excavated. My prized souvenir is a little slice of wood from a Viking Age log, dug up from the remnants of Jorvik. (Acquired legally, I might add!)

[PAGE BREAK]

Elsewhen
The names of many of the streets in town recall years of Viking rule, for Petergate, Fossgate and
example:
Stonegate. Here the word "-gate" does not mean "an opening in a fence or wall", but rather comes from gata, Old Norse
And even more confusing, surviving city gates are
but
for "street".
the
"gates",
"bars", for
Bar
not
example:
and
Micklegate Bar, Walmgate
Bootham Bar. You wouldn't stop there

for a drink!
a
Another unique place to visit is the Shambles, a narrow, cobbled lane with close-together shops and overhanging upper floors straight out of the Middle Fighting tourists from all over
Ages.
Europe, I managed to squeeze into couple of the shops to look around and buy a few souvenirs. I also stopped to listen to a talented teenaged girl playing medieval music on a flute. We became acquainted and sat together briefly, chatting in King's Square. She was a charming person. Unfortunately, at some time during the remainder of my trip, I lost her name and address!
of
Other must-see places I tracked down were the York Minster cathedral, Archaeological Resource Centre, York Castle Museum, "The York Story" inside St. Mary's Church, Friargate Museum, Yorkshire Museum, and the York Dungeon.
Also
interest are the Gothic
Cathedral ruins (see bottom picture on cover). It is said that an occasional fleeting shadow of a nun or monk is seen.
Another popular activity for visitors is the various "walks" offered by different groups. Unfortunately, some are given only once a week, so I missed "A Walk through Viking York" (Mondays only) and "The Snickelways of York" (Saturdays only in September). Of course, I did manage to take "The Original Ghost Walk of York", which departs nightly at 8:00
Bridge!
p.m. from The King's Arms Pub near Ouse
The night was clear and the
group that
gathered
was well
entertained by the charming gentleman, reminiscent of the late Robert Preston,
alley.
who guided us up this gate and down that
He told us of hauntings
sightings in various buildings
and

and
met early in the "tour".
Issue #16
We heard of
locations as we passed. I stuck near two
young lasses from Aberdeen, Scotland, I
many phantom figures, spectral nuns,
ghost children and animals, unearthly
noises, mysterious happenings, and how
Clifford's Tower was the scene
miraculous event
many, many
of a
years
before, when rebels trapped inside were
spared after the building turned red and
began to bleed! True or not?
After a very enjoyable hour or so,
the tour broke up and I made my way back
to where I was staying. As I was walking
alone
on
streets,
I was
unfamiliar
I was
surprised to hear voices speaking in
Turkish ahead
stationed in
Turkey for a year in the Navy.
It was
very curious indeed! I came upon a
street vendor selling kebabs. Now it was
my turn to surprise, as I walked up to
the vendor and said, "Iyi ak■amlar! Bir
doner kebab, lütfen." It turned out he
was from Izmir originally and was quite
surprised to find someone who knew any
of his mother tongue. Yet another case
of "It's A Small World Syndrome"!
I stayed two days in York, instead of
the one I had planned originally. As a
matter of fact, I considered staying a
third day, as I was enjoying myself so
much and thought about taking the
visited
walk" for
met
competitor's "ghost
comparison, but was impatient to see the
friends in Scotland I had not seen in
seven years. I took tons of pictures,

places,
unforgettable
interesting people, and was thoroughly
At some future
charmed by the place.
date, perhaps in late 1994/early 1995, I
hope to go back for another and longer
The next time I want to bring a
camcorder and twice as much photography
equipment! And I plan to interview a lot
visit.
of the local people for stories!
I think the best thing I can do now is
to do what that anonymous gentleman on
an airplane once did for me -
recommend
highly that you visit York, England. It
will be a visit you will always remember
and maybe, someday, you'll thank me for
planting the suggestion in the back of
your head. I know I was very impressed!
You will definitely enjoy it!
Elsewhen
NEWS
Now the News
This place is reserved each issue for interesting newsclippings that our readers and contributors send in to Elsewhen. All clippings are retyped the make them easier to read.
000
ON THE TRAIL OF A BEASTIE
They're off to find the almasty-a big, hairy, two-legged
Paris -
creature living in the Caucasus mountains. More than 500 eyewitness accounts of these beasties are said to exist. Local people claim to have fed, touched and even-on rare occasions-had sex with them.
Now a Franco-Russian expedition, "Almasty '92", wants to get hard scientific proof of their existence. Adult almasties, it is said, stand about six feet high. Their arms reach down to their knees, their legs are short, and their dark-skinned bodies are covered with coarse, long, reddish-brown hair. The females have long, narrow breasts which they sometimes throw over their shoulders. Locals say they are nomadic and nocturnal, sleeping by day in caves, stables, abandoned huts or nests made from broken branches in trees. They are said to communicate by booming like bitterns.
Until fairly recently, almasties were unknown to the wider world. Publicity surrounding the Anglo-American search for the Himalayan Yeti in 1956 persuaded the Caucasians, who had previously thought their shaggy anthropoid to be of little interest, to inform the authorities. The Soviet Academy of Sciences mounted an expedition in 1958, but failed to find its quarry. It did, however stimulate the curiosity of Marie-Jeanne Koffmann, a French-born surgeon and mountaineer, who had served as an army officer in the Caucasus

during World War II.
She set off to the Caucasus on her own, returning with 40 eyewitness accounts, a fascination with crypto-zoology (the study of unknown animal species) and a determination to settle the issue once and for all.
With Sylvain Pallix, a journalist and film producer, Koffmann has at last been given her chance. At the age of 72, she is to lead a team of 10 Russian and four French scientists. Pallix will record their achievements-and, he hopes, their quarry-on film.
Their aim is to get close enough to an almasty to be able to anesthetize it and take skin, blood, and saliva samples. They also hope to fit their guest with a radio-transmitting bracelet to track its movements.
Skeptics fear Koffmann may be disappointed. They point out that although molds of what is claimed to be an almasty footprint have been taken, no corpses or skeletons have ever been found. Besides, even if the almasty did exist, it might be on the verge of extinction.
Sightings, once fairly frequent, are now rare. The most recent was claimed in August last year by Gregory Pantchenko, a Russian zoologist and one of the expedition's members. He says he watched an almasty for a minute and a half from about 13 feet away one moonlit night.
Unfortunately-you guessed it-his camera had no flash.
(From the San Francisco Chronicle/Examiner, 7/12/92, PUNCH - Bufo Calvin)
SECTION, page 5.
The Bookshelf
A Study Guide to UFOs, Psychic & Paranormal Phenomena in the U.S.S.R., Antonio Huneeus, Ed., Abelard Productions, 1991 (ISBN 0-938394-84-9).
The recent changes in the former U.S.S.R. are likely to continue to have a two-edged effect on anomalistics research. The first, and negative part, is the decreased funding (in the short run) of research. The second, and beneficial part, is the "uncensoring" and increased availability of articles already published in the various republics.
It is due to the latter that we have the above book, published in 1991 by Abelard Productions. This book, edited by Ufologist Antonio Huneeus, gives Western researchers a welcome look at what their counterparts have been saying.
Not surprisingly, varied opinions are put forward in the series of translated articles in the book. There is a clearly negative piece viewing UFOS "Through the Eyes of the Cosmonauts". Although hopeful of eventual contact, they do not accept UFOs coming and leaving the atmosphere, for the simple reason that there are always cosmonauts in space, and they do not report seeing anything.
On the other hand, there is a survey of the subject by Vladimir Azhazha, with whom Jacques Vallée met on a recent trip, which would provide the National Enquirer with several articles. Some of the stories related in a matter-of-fact fashion include: 5 meter (16 foot) tall aliens; Buzz Aldrin having shot a movie of a 1500 meter cylinder which escorted the astronauts around the moon; the Pentagon cordoning off a crash site in Northern Brazil where 16 dwarfish UFOnaut bodies were found; Lenin chatting with H.G. Wells about extraterrestrial contact; and, at the opposite end of the spectrum from my first citation, UFOnauts 3 centimeters (a little

over an inch!) tall.
That last one may have been a result of a typo or mistranslation. The book does contain a few of both. For instance, in the article about Mokele-Mbembe, there is a reference made to biped tracks being found. This is almost certainly an error. Also, in the Cryptozoology section, there are some things which show the translator's unfamiliarity with the subject. The phonetic rendering of Bernard Heuvelmans' name is given as "Eivelmans", or so I assume from the context.
Still, despite the few flaws (a lack of index or constant source citation), the book is worthwhile, both for the indigenous reports and for the information they had about events in the Western world. For instance, in two separate cases, Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin are referred to as scientists, which is probably stretching the case considerably. Cossacks would perhaps have been a closer description of these "cowboys" (one a former rodeo rider) who took a movie of a female Sasquatch. Then again, another incident mentioned more than once involved a UFO interacting with a train, causing it to speed up, and enabling it to expend far less fuel than was normal for it.
I do recommend the book...if you can find it. I was lucky enough to just run across it in a local bookstore. There is no address given for the publishers in the book, although there is one for the author. Still, your local bookstore may be able to order it for you. Enjoy this first glimpse of what is sure to be a torrent of information to be revealed in the ruins of the Other Superpower.
Bufo Calvin
[We hope to do an article on research in the former Soviet Union in the near future. As a former Russian interpreter I'm well aware of translation problems and "Heuvelmans" is written "■■■■■■■■■" (Eivelmans) in Russian.
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within the victim.
There is also the strong possibility of the mind creating a fantasy punishment by 'aliens' because of guilt harbored In other centuries people claimed kidnapping by demons and other spirits for punishment of sins, whether real or imagined. This is likely an up-to-date version of the same process. I'm willing to bet some of today's abductees would have told stories of fiery-eyed devils 300 years ago instead of grey-skinned aliens. It has to do with contemporary cultural factors.
[In March 1993, several months after I wrote this article, I was sent a copy of "Demons, Doctors, and Aliens: An Exploration into the Relationships Among Witch Trial Evidence, Sexual-Medical Traditions, and Alien Abductions" by James Pontolillo. (Order from the

International Fortean Organization, address on page 19.)
This is a fascinating paper, which explains what he thinks causes the abduction experience and relates it to a long line of evolving myths, misogyny, and other cultural factors. Although I think he puts too much emphasis on misogyny, I feel he is close to the explanation. I almost scrapped half of this article after reading his paper!]
Enough of abductions! Let's tackle the fact that the vast majority of 'alien' UFOnauts are humanoids with the same basic layout as humans. If they are not of Earth that would seem an impossibility. Although the human physical layout works reasonably well for us, it is not perfect and there are any number of different arrangements that might be more efficient or logical.
There are basically five types of aliens: exactly human (usually tall and physically perfect), mostly human (MIBS, etc.), big-headed grey-skinned humanoids, reptilian humanoids, and non-humanoids. The first two are mostly associated with contactees, the second two with abductees, and the last is uncommon (although it is the most likely one to be genuine given the facts of different evolution).
The first two are very likely either fantasies, mental constructs, time travelers from the near future or simply fellow human beings having a good joke at the expense of others. The second two are fantasies, mental constructs or later forms of humans (ie, time travelers from a distant time or after some genetic catastrophe). The Greys are 'fetus-like' in some ways and much further evolved in other ways, either one easily explainable. The reptiloids seem a lot like fantasized dinosaur-men. Many mammals, including Man, have an instinctive fear of reptiles, going back to when mammals were shrew-sized and had to hide from the often massive teeth of hungry dinosaurs. So if the brain wishes to create a monster, it doesn't need to look far. The Japanese are especially fond of reptilian monsters, as shown by Godzilla, Rodan, et al. The Creature from the Black Lagoon was the probable origin of Lizard-Man sightings in the South and some 'aliens'. The popularity of the science fiction mini-series V, about disguised reptilian humanoids coming to Earth to prey on humans, is yet another example.

Although a big fan of Star Trek, even as a child I thought it was very absurd for so many of the aliens encountered to be humanoid. This is ridiculous and totally unrealistic. Of course, there were the Hortas, Melkotians, Tholians, and more than a few energy beings of various types.
Indeed, a formless being with pseudopods and multiple sense organs or without a completely physical body I would be much more efficient for space travel. The classic British TV series UFO had aliens who lived in and breathed

fluid. This made them able to sustain much higher G-forces and make 'impossible' atmospheric maneuvers (sound a bit familiar?). Now look at our planet-more of it is covered by water than land. From a distance, it would be logical to assume intelligent life here would be aquatic or possibly amphibian in nature. Carbon-based life forms need water. Aliens of carbon-based biology, having evolved elsewhere, are just as likely to be water-dwelling as land-dwelling. Yet there is almost a complete lack of any stories of aquatic aliens (unless you accept those rare stories of UFOs seen entering and exiting bodies of water as partial evidence).

I am not completely discounting the possibility of extraterrestrial visitations to our planet, but I feel the odds are so remote as to approach zero. Despite all these years, dozens of contactees, hundreds of abductees, thousands of varying kinds of close encounters, there is still no credible physical evidence to support the ET theory. This is the biggest missing piece of the puzzle, much like the unproven cases for Bigfoot and the Loch Ness Monster, despite all that has been said and done. While strange things may be seen from time to time, there is more than enough evidence -circumstantial and otherwise-to put their origin right here. Whenever a theory has big holes in it, it is not a completely valid theory. This is the case with claiming alien intervention, because equally possible earthly origins can fit every bit of the evidence.

In the Navy I was involved in one special intelligence project (don't ask for details, because I took my security oath seriously). Before it started we were trained by someone from the NSA. In secure spaces, after the training was over and before he left for his next assignment, he had a candid discussion with our small group, answering our questions about anything. He was in a position to have had access to UFO information, if any exits. He assured us that there never had been alien contact or recovery of alien technology by the U.S. He did admit there were all sorts of experimental test craft that not even he was all that knowledgeable about. His vague hints made sense in the light of the later-revealed stealth aircraft.

He said the
rumors of UFO recoveries developed from our military's hush-hush recovery of our own (and occasional Soviet) top secret test vehicles after infrequent crashes. Alien 'bodies' were ergonomic test dummies or myths. I have no reason not to believe what he said. I makes much more sense.

Given the evidence, I say that UFOs are man-made-whether by the conscious or unconscious creativity of the mind, or actual manufactured products of human ingenuity.

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Research Tips
FORTEAN RESEARCH ON A BUDGET:

Tip #8 Tag Sales!
by Gary S. Mangiacopra
Springtime brings out flowers and also tag sales! For the fortean researcher with a very limited budget this is one of the best times of the year to buy needed equipment for their use throughout the coming year.
As a person who cannot resist stopping at tag sales-or even better still, larger flea markets-I have many times come across many useful items at costs of only pennies on the dollar that the original purchaser paid for it. These savings can be passed onto you, the fortean researcher!
In the past years, from my own experience, I have run across numerous items that I bought and use. For example, camera equipment (right now everyone is getting rid of their 8mm and Super 8 movie cameras/projectors and getting into video-some great buys), home weather dials (great for determining local weather conditions), books and magazines (build up your private library inexpensively-you can buy an almost new $20 book for perhaps 50¢, or some 1940's magazines for 10¢ each that private dealers are asking $5 each for), camping equipment (anything that sellers have lost interest in and you can use for your in-the-field trips), car supplies (clamps for hoses if you break down who knows where, tools, etc.), office furniture (a writing desk or a $200 office chair like the one I bought for $5), and typewriters, both manual and electric, that everyone is getting rid of for next to nothing and getting into word processors and home computers. The list goes on and on.
Your local newspapers may have a weekend listing of persons who are having tag sales. I have found that it is best-rather than go from one sale to another-to find persons of one specific area or street that are having numerous tag sales on the same date. This way you travel to just one specific area and go down, looking over a dozen or more sellers. There are two best times of day for going to a tage sale: early in the morning and at the end of the time schedule given by the tag seller. In the morning, you get the first choice of the items for sale, but at the end of the sale you can get the leftovers for a discounted price. As the seller is determined to dispose of these items, they are much more receptive to making a deal with you.
Another good source of tag sales are those offered by schools, churches, and other charity organizations with their white elephant sales. They are interested in raising cash and are not willing to hold onto unsold items, so at the end of their sales you can get good bargains.
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Flea markets are a different matter, I have found. There, the sellers are very firm on their asking price. If they do not get it, they will hold onto the item and sell it at another flea market at another time. One good aspect of

flea markets is that they have a wider variety of sellers from different portions of your state and may offer a wider range of items.
A good tip to the would-be buyer: If you can, use "the rule of four" before you leave to attend tag sales. Any battery-operated equipment may or probably not be functioning correctly, and the seller usually does not have any batteries on hand for you to try the equipment out. Carry four of each of the following types of batteries with you: AA, AAA, C and D. If you see something you like, ask the seller to hold onto it while you can get your batteries to test it to see if it works. It would also help to have at least one 9 volt battery and a couple of different button batteries with you.
So this spring enjoy the sights as you travel to the tag sales, seeking bargains to help you continue your research-on-a-budget campaign!
[This is a very good tip. "Used" does not necessary mean "useless". There are any number of names for these sales, often listed in local papers: Rummage sales, garage sales, yard sales, estate sales, swap meets, jumble sales, moving sales, going out of business sales, etc. Also, check out local used book stores and thrift shops, like Goodwill, Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul, Humane Society, etc. Buying from the latter few nets you bargains and provides money to good causes. Anything you are looking for is out there somewhere!
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